To uphold the integrity of our elections, it is essential that every vote cast comes from a legally eligible voter. That means ensuring that each individual is both of legal voting age and a U.S. citizen. A secure, government-issued photo ID is the most practical and effective way to verify voter eligibility at the polls.

Requiring valid identification, such as a driver's license or U.S. passport is not a barrier to voting, but it is a safeguard against fraud and abuse in our voting system. At the same time, we must be mindful that not every eligible voter has access to these forms of ID. To address this, the state should provide a free, government-issued voter identification card to any eligible citizen who does not already possess an accepted form of ID. This card would be made available through the appropriate agency and would serve exclusively for the purpose of voting.

This approach strikes a balance between access and security—making sure that no eligible voter is turned away, while also ensuring that every ballot cast is legitimate. Free and fair elections depend on the confidence of the people, and that confidence begins with common-sense protections like voter ID.

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